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Agenda items 13, 14, 32, 40, 44, 63, 65, 66, 67 and 100

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Culture of peace

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Right of peoples to self-determination

Promotion and protection of human rights

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 27 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter of the representative of the Israeli regime addressed to you on 19 June 2007 (circulated as document A/61/961), containing certain baseless allegations and distortions about the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to state the following.

The appalling and notorious records of violation of all human rights, first and foremost the right to life as the most basic human rights, by the Israeli regime are well documented by many international human rights bodies and organizations, especially the United Nations human rights machinery. The ill-intended and futile attempt of this regime to raise allegations against the human rights situation of

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others is nothing but a preposterous, and indeed tired, practice to distract the international community's attention from its shameful human rights records. A regime marked with aggression, occupation, assassination, state terrorism, torture, kidnapping and practically all kinds of criminal policies and abhorrent atrocities cannot and should not portray itself as an advocate and warrior of human rights.

The intention of my Government is not to respond to the groundless allegations raised in the above-said letter, since the absurdity of this whole practice by the Israeli regime is more than clear and requires no explanation. Nor will one be able to elaborate even a small part of the horrific human rights record of the said regime in this short letter. Nevertheless, I wish to refer to a number of reports that clearly illustrate the abysmal record of the Israeli regime in violating the most basic principles of human rights, international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter:

- The Israeli regime's horrendous crimes against the Palestinian people, and even its discriminatory behaviour towards the Arabs who have lived under its brutal rule for the past six decades, have long been criticized and condemned by the international human rights watchdogs, especially the United Nations human rights machinery. While it is impossible to include the long catalogue of the Israeli human rights violations, documented and reported by the international human rights bodies, in this short letter, a brief reference to only few of those reports is yet more than enough to show the real face of this wicked regime. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, Mr. John Dugard, has reported that "Israel has turned the Gaza Strip into a prison for Palestinians where life is intolerable, appalling and tragic and appears to have thrown away the key". He has further said "Israel is breaking international humanitarian law by measures which amount to collective punishment".

- According to the said reports and numerous other United Nations reports, because of the criminal practices of the Israeli regime "the whole Palestinian population has been terrorized, their properties have been randomly destroyed and a humanitarian crisis has been imposed on a whole population by the destruction of power plants, water supplies, bridges and schools; and by restrictions imposed on the import of medical supplies and foodstuffs". Certainly, this list of the Israeli regime's unlawful practices and inhumane policies is not exhaustive. In accordance with the United Nations findings, the apartheid Wall "has inflicted enormous sufferings on the innocent Palestinian people with Palestinians living in the so-called closed zone unable to freely access schools, hospitals and places of employment in the West Bank". As a result of the continued construction of this illegal Wall, "many Palestinians have abandoned their lands, resulting in a new category of internally displaced persons". Indeed, the United Nations rapporteurs have rightly described these brutal practices and policies as "ethnic cleansing" and as Mr. Dugard has recently indicated "in other countries such human rights violations would be described as ethnic cleansing, but political considerations forbade such language where Israel is concerned". Like many other United Nations special rapporteurs, Mr. Dugard has also concluded that "systematic violations of human rights are being committed" by the Israeli regime. It is unfortunate that "political considerations" on the part of the Israeli regime's patrons have

encouraged the perpetrator of such crimes to continue its inhumane practices and policies with impunity.

- The systematic and gross violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and international law by the Israeli regime have accorded it a separate and permanent place on the agenda of almost all relevant United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms. A number of special sessions of the General Assembly have been convened to specifically deal with the Israeli crimes and several resolutions are adopted by the General Assembly in this regard every year. It was on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights and has continued to be on the agenda of the Human Rights Council. This clearly illustrates the anguish and concern that the international community feels as a consequence of the Israeli regime's unlawful and criminal actions and behaviour. Since the commencement of the work of the Human Rights Council in 2006, it has thus far allocated three of its four special sessions to the crimes, atrocities and human rights violations of this regime. This alone speaks loudly how dangerously, systematically and grossly this regime violates all human rights. On numerous occasions, the United Nations human rights mechanisms have concluded that the Israeli regime's practices "constitute a collective punishment of the civilians" and that "the Israeli wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, constitutes a gross violation of human rights law and international humanitarian law", and have expressed their "shock at the horror of Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians ... while asleep". They have also "condemned the Israeli killing of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, as well as of medics" and have "condemned the Israeli massive destruction of Palestinian homes, property and infrastructure" while expressing their "alarm at the gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory by Israel". They have, therefore, "called for urgent international action to put an immediate end to these violations".

- The United Nations Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as well as the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, have concluded that "serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law have been committed by Israel during its aggression against Lebanon" in the summer of 2006. They reported that "Israeli Air Force attacked more than 7,000 targets in Lebanon, its Navy conducted 2,500 bombardments, and its Army fired tens of thousands of shells and rockets. As a result, 1,191 people were killed and 4,405 wounded. One third of the dead and wounded, and close to half of internally displaced persons were children. Tens of thousands of homes and much public infrastructure were damaged or destroyed. An estimated 1 million persons were displaced ... and entire villages were virtually destroyed". Beyond these figures, their report indicates that the Israeli regime even attacked medical facilities and hospitals and at least "12 medical facilities were destroyed and 38 severely damaged. Ambulances and medical convoys were attacked, and Lebanese Red Cross workers killed and injured ... the people including elderly and disabled were cut off for some weeks from elementary health care, water and sanitation". Another human

rights organization just recently concluded that "Israel has committed war crimes" during its aggression against Lebanon.

- The Israeli regime's pattern of behaviour in violating human rights has also seriously affected the Arabs living under its brute rule for more than six decades. According to the United Nations human rights mechanisms, "they are reported to have received significantly less access to health services than their Jewish counterparts". Relevant United Nations human rights bodies have also concluded that discrimination and segregation features prominently in Israeli regime's treatment of Arabs there. Based on the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, "Jewish and Arab populations have different access to water, which particularly affects Arabs". In fact, such behaviour amounts to the policy of racism and apartheid.

The international community has, in many instances, stood firm and clear in the face of these criminal practices of the Israeli regime. However, more serious and concrete measures are imperative to counter the atrocious behaviour of this regime, which has put the most basic values of mankind in danger by its abhorrent inhuman policies and practices. As one of the United Nations officials has rightly mentioned "the suffering of the Palestinians is a test of the readiness of the international community to protect human rights. If ... the international community cannot ... take some action, [it] must not be surprised if the people of the planet disbelieve that they are seriously committed to the promotion of human rights". The United Nations should heed this call and take resolute action in response to the violation of the most basic human rights and international humanitarian law committed systematically by the Israeli regime.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 13, 14, 32, 40, 44, 63, 65, 66, 67 and 100.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**

United Nations A/61/1017

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 41
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Note verbale dated 2 August 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations has the honour to forward the "Istanbul Commitments", the outcome document of the Seventh European Regional Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies, held in Istanbul from 20 to 24 May 2007 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Turkey would appreciate it if the present note verbale and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 41.

07-45874 (E) 170807

Annex to the note verbale dated 2 August 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Seventh European Regional Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Istanbul, 20-24 May 2007

The Istanbul Commitments

We, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Europe region, having met in Istanbul, Turkey from 20 to 24 May 2007 at our 7th European Regional Conference,

Recalling the Berlin Charter adopted at the 6th Regional Conference in Berlin in 2002, and taking account of the fact that the themes of health and care and migration have since become even greater humanitarian challenges facing Europe and the world,

Recalling Council of Delegates resolutions 2001/4 and 2003/10 on Movement action in favour of refugees and internally displaced persons and 2005/3 on Promoting respect for diversity and non-discrimination – a contribution to peace and friendship between peoples, as well as the Federation's Global Health and Care Strategy 2006-2010,

Noting that the 16th Federation General Assembly and the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in November 2007 in Geneva will address these issues under the theme "Together for humanity",

Reaffirming our wish to bring our status as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field to the more effective service of the needs of the most vulnerable in our countries, and to use this status in our advocacy with governments, international organisations and other partners,

Recognising that Europe is a region with great economic and social disparities, making mutual support and solidarity standing as an essential component of our mission,

Reiterating the need to build effective partnerships and alliances within the Movement as well as with other partners in Europe and elsewhere, recognizing that no one organization can address these challenges alone,

Being determined to follow the patterns of cooperation established by the Berlin Charter in 2002, and to work within the Global Agenda and the New Operating Model of the International Federation,

Noting with approval the reports of the working groups as well as their preparatory documents and acknowledging their significant contribution to the outcome of the Istanbul Conference,

Agree to provide resources and our knowledge to address the human vulnerabilities caused by poverty, public health threats, migration, forced

displacement, demographic change, community tension and environmental challenges including climate change;

Acknowledge the serious challenge posed to our populations and communities by public health threats such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, mental illness, substance abuse and other public health emergencies. We emphasize the central place of our work in the field of health and care in meeting these challenges, including the use of a dual action approach combining preventive campaigns with care and support programs;

Acknowledge the value migrants[1] bring to enrich the host countries' societies in social, cultural and economic terms while also posing many challenges to those societies. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure that the Red Cross and Red Crescent is inclusive and open to all, fully engaged in the fight against racism, xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion and for respect for diversity and human dignity;

Are determined to assert our right of access to all in need, irrespective of their legal status;

Make the following commitments:

1. Assess the vulnerabilities and capacities of our communities to ensure that our programmes and services meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our populations, including persons without the support of health or social welfare systems, persons in the migration cycle irrespective of their legal status and persons stigmatized or marginalized for any reason.

Health and social care

2. Engage in partnerships and alliances with affected groups, health and social care authorities and other actors in particular to act as a bridge builder, and to empower affected communities, groups and individuals.

Scale up programme implementation in key health and social care areas, particularly through partnerships on HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis by systematic and measurable activities and improved quality using evidence-based and evaluated programmes;

Raise awareness among the public to reduce stigma and discrimination and address humanitarian needs associated with such vulnerabilities as drug use, HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis, including through the use of campaigns organised in partnership with affected communities.

Increase our capacity to provide effective information on disease prevention, and to promote behaviour change and harm reduction.

Advocate for access to preventive measures, treatment and all relevant forms of health and social care.

Raise the profile and priority of the needs of our ageing populations, recognizing at the same time the important contributions older people make to the

[1] The term "migrant" includes, inter alia, asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, trafficked persons, irregular migrants and economic migrants.

work of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other organisations with a strong volunteer base.

Apply the six strategic directions of the Global Health and Care Strategy 2006-2010 — *Capacity building, Social Mobilization, Partnerships, Health in emergencies, Advocacy and community empowerment* — in our national plans of action.

Migration

3. Address the needs and vulnerabilities of people affected by migration in order better to protect, support and assist them. In particular we will pay attention to the promotion of respect for the rights and needs of individuals, including persons in detention and to the delivery of needs-based services and assistance with a special priority for asylum-seekers, refugees, irregular migrants, unaccompanied minors, and victims of trafficking in human beings. This will also include providing support to migrants in their efforts to develop a sustainable future based on equal opportunities and equal treatment.

Advocacy will focus on our unconditional access to migrants regardless of their status for the purposes of providing humanitarian assistance without being criminalised or otherwise penalised for that action.

We will insist on governments respecting the rights of all migrants, including in particular respect for and due application of the Principle of *Non-refoulement* and the provisions of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and implementation by governments of all their international and national legal and human rights obligations. We will advocate for the regularisation of the status of all migrants whose status has been undetermined for a long period of time.

We will also intensify our advocacy for all States to become parties to the 1990 International Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.

Improve cooperation between National Societies in countries of origin, transit and destination in order better to protect and assist migrants and returnees and to strengthen partnerships with external actors working in this field. We will maintain and strengthen the well-established activities in the fields of Tracing, Restoring Family Links and Family Reunification.

Support the development of a Federation policy on migration, which should also benefit from the expertise of the ICRC in the areas of protection and restoring family links. This will facilitate the elaboration of coherent and comprehensive policies and plans of action by National Societies.

Strengthening capacities and cooperation

4. Work together to strengthen our community and volunteer base as the foundation for our work in addressing vulnerability and humanitarian needs, ensuring at the same time that this base reflects the composition of the population we serve.

5. At all levels, actively engage Youth in the design and implementation of all our programmes, encourage them to work with their peers and respond to their own needs as well as to the needs of entire communities and future generations.

6. Ensure that the Red Cross and Red Crescent is inclusive and open to all and actively recruit volunteers and staff regardless of any differences or distinctions so that all people can take an effective part in and own the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes relevant to them and their vulnerabilities.

7. Strengthen and build mechanisms for global and regional cooperation and collaboration, as a means of ensuring the fullest exchange of information and experience on best practice in addressing vulnerability and bringing support to all National Societies in need.

8. Mobilise adequate resources for capacity building and implementation of our programmes from governments and intergovernmental bodies such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, WHO-EURO as well as non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

9. Identify new partnership opportunities with our public authorities, particularly at local government levels, utilising our role as auxiliaries in the humanitarian field to build strategies and programs for the most vulnerable people in communities and stressing the importance of awareness-raising about vulnerability and the need for full respect for diversity.

Establishing indicators

We recognise the importance of and will establish common indicators of activities to assist the implementation and monitoring of these commitments. Such indicators will relate to:

(a) engagements with the public authorities, at national, district and local levels, on matters concerning vulnerability, health and dignity,

(b) partnerships established with public authorities and other organisations including those of affected groups,

(c) human, technical and financial resources mobilised,

(d) the provision of assistance to persons with special needs, health risks and high vulnerability, including persons in prison or detention,

(e) advocacy and programmes aimed at reducing the acute vulnerability of children, people living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, other disadvantaged groups and migrants,

(f) programmes to empower communities in support of respect for diversity, prevention and harm reduction,

(g) action taken to include affected groups – such as migrants, disadvantaged persons and persons facing stigma and discrimination – at all levels of governance, policymaking and management.

(h) diversity as reflected in our National Societies, in particular our volunteer base

(i) programmes undertaken with the inclusion of Youth in the design and implementation of actions in support of the most vulnerable.

(j) service delivery for the benefit of the most vulnerable, with particular reference to support provided to persons living with stigma and discrimination and persons without access to health, legal and other services provided under the law of the country.

We recognise that the humanitarian consequences of today's challenges cannot be addressed effectively by any one region, and we commit to bringing our experiences to the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2007, with the intention of developing a joint European pledge as well as pledges in partnership with governments on the ways in which we will address vulnerability together.

Follow up

We undertake to implement our commitments in our national context through concrete and measurable plans of action. We will share experience, knowledge and lessons learned, and will assist each other when requested.

We agree to report our achievements against these commitments within the context of the Accountability Framework adopted by the 15th General Assembly of the Federation in Seoul in 2005.

We commit to strengthen our reporting capacity and to provide sufficient resources to enable the Secretary General of the Federation to improve the reporting and consequently the implementation of our commitments.

We encourage the Governing Board, our Vice President and the Secretary-General to promote these commitments, thus facilitating our endeavours to save lives and alleviate human suffering on the basis of our Fundamental Principles.

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 68
Report of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 20 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I attach herewith a copy of a letter dated 18 July 2007 from several Member States addressed to me regarding their position on the issue of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (see annex).

I invite particular attention to be drawn to the last paragraph of the letter, in which the Member States request that the information they provide be circulated to all Member States. In this regard, I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide, Jr.**
Permanent Representative

07-45541 (E) 140807

Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

As you know, our countries place great importance on the rights of indigenous peoples and on reaching a broader agreement on the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and on one which includes the diverse range of countries with significant indigenous populations. We reaffirm our commitment to participating constructively in an open, inclusive and transparent process to that end.

Only through amendments to the text of the Declaration, which address our most significant concerns, will it be possible for us to consider supporting the Declaration. We reiterate our support for a limited re-opening of the text, based on a thematic approach, and with the objective of achieving an irreducible minimum number of amendments.

The attached non-paper (see enclosure) outlines a thematic approach to concerns. We consider that such an approach would provide the necessary flexibility for interested parties to achieve an irreducible minimum. We can advise that countries in our group are working intensively to provide amendments based on key concerns and with this objective. These will be provided to the President of the General Assembly shortly.

In an effort to narrow concerns, amendments are being discussed in eight areas to 16 articles:

Self-determination, self-government and indigenous institutions (3, 4, 5, 33)

Lands, territories and resources (26, 29)

Redress (11, 27, 28)

Free, prior and informed consent (19 and 32(2))

Rights of third parties (46 only)

Intellectual property rights (11, 31)

Military issues (10, 30)

Education (14)

For many countries, this represents a significant narrowing down of concerns and preparedness to address minor concerns through interpretative statements. We are also aiming to make only the most minimal amendments to the articles identified, while still addressing key concerns.

Not all members of the group have identified all of these articles: the list is a composite.

We draw your attention to the decision that countries in our group have agreed not to pursue the concern regarding the definition of indigenous peoples. In our view, a definition is not necessary if the text is consistent with international law and does not imply that indigenous rights prevail over others. Our countries share, however, the concern with the Africa Group that indigenous situations vary from State to State and group to group, and that this text must be capable of being universal in its scope and application. For that reason, amendments to the declaration to render it consistent with international law and constitutional frameworks are essential.

We would be grateful if you could ensure that this information is included in your report to the President of the General Assembly and circulated to all member States.

18 July 2007

Permanent Mission of Australia
Permanent Mission of Canada
Permanent Mission of Colombia
Permanent Mission of Guyana
Permanent Mission of New Zealand
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
Permanent Mission of Suriname

Enclosure

Non-paper

Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Negotiation framework to achieve an irreducible minimum of amendments

28 June 2007

In a previous non-paper summarizing "Key Areas of Concern", a number of states with significant indigenous populations identified nine key areas of concern with the current draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Amendments to the current text offer the possibility of further clarity and a much wider and significant consensus in its favour.

A methodology that will serve to achieve an irreducible minimum of amendments is required. The text should be addressed thematically, using the key areas of concern that have been identified as a way of organizing focused discussion. Text would be negotiated under the heading of each key area of concern.

During consultations held on 25 and 26 June 2007, the moderator invited states to comment on substance and process, with a view to identifying an irreducible minimum number of amendments to the current text. In response to this request, we note the following:

- There are nine key areas of concern in the current text: self-determination, self-government and indigenous institutions; lands, territories and resources; redress and restitution; free, prior and informed consent; lack of clarity as to who "indigenous peoples" are; military defence issues; protections for the rights of others; intellectual property rights; and education.

- A thematic approach will be the most effective means of working towards an irreducible minimum number of amendments to the current text, using the key areas of concern as a basis to structure discussions and negotiations. This would provide clear parameters for the exercise, while providing flexibility in addressing concerns.

- In a thematic approach, provisions of the current text would be discussed as they relate to each key area of concern, rather than sequentially as they appear in the text. Such an approach avoids unnecessary discussion of text on which there is already agreement, and enhances the ability of the moderator and delegations to focus on those areas on which further work is required. Following a thematic approach may also have the effect of reducing the numbers of articles on which discussion and negotiation will be necessary.

- The Africa Group text helpfully provides a basis and reference point for consideration of text.

We are committed to working to minimize revisions to the current text to addressing outstanding concerns, and we will engage constructively and positively with all parties in efforts aimed at securing for this Declaration the widest possible consensus.

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 15
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Letter dated 24 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, in its capacity as host of the sixth ministerial meeting of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Luanda on 18 and 19 June 2007, and as Chair of the Zone, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Luanda Final Declaration and the Luanda Plan of Action adopted at the meeting (see annexes).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under item 15 of the agenda.

(*Signed*) Ismael A. **Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-45319 (E) 100807

Annex I to the letter dated 24 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Sixth ministerial meeting of member States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Luanda, 18 and 19 June 2007

Luanda Plan of Action

We, the Ministers of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, hereinafter referred to as "the Zone", meeting in Luanda, Angola from 18 to 19 June, 2007, on the occasion of the VIth Ministerial Meeting of Member States of the Zone, with a view to revitalizing the activities of the Zone;

Having realized the need for follow-up on the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, adopted by the 5th Ministerial Meeting, held in Buenos Aires from 21 to 22 October, 1998;

Welcoming the conclusions and recommendations of the three Workshops of the Zone, held in 2007, within the framework of the "Luanda Initiative";

Having agreed to adopt the Luanda Plan of Action, we commit ourselves to ensuring its implementation as follows:

I. Economic Cooperation: Contributing to Poverty Eradication by Creating Partnerships for Sustainable Development, Trade, Investment, and Tourism

In order to increase cooperation in vital areas such as Clean Fuels and Environmentally Friendly Energy/Biofuel, Agricultural and Livestock Production, Human Resource Development, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Biotechnology, Education and Infrastructure Development, agree to:

1. Enhance the exchange of information, successful national experiences, lessons learnt as well as to exchange knowledge and technology, promote closer ties between business enterprises of the countries of the Zone, including trade fairs and commercial missions by encouraging, inter alia, the establishment of Diplomatic Relations among all Member States of the Zone;

2. Promote South-South cooperation, particularly in the fields of Science and Technology as well as in the Development of Human Resources;

3. Further develop transportation and communication within the Zone in order to facilitate greater contact, promote trade and enhance tourism among the Member States of the Zone;

4. Encourage the reinforcement of private sector cooperation, in particular business associations and Chambers of Commerce, to promote reciprocal investments and trade;

5. Encourage greater exchanges among civil societies of the Member States of the Zone, including in sports as well as the enhancement of cultural cooperation, bearing in mind the importance of youth and gender issues and the significance of the African Diaspora in South American countries;

6. Establish an Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on economic cooperation in order to contribute to poverty eradication by creating partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investment, and tourism.

II. Crime Prevention and Combating Drug Trafficking, Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Transnational Organized Crime, including Piracy

In the pursuit of crime prevention and the combating of illicit activities such as drug trafficking, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as well as other transnational organized crimes, including piracy, across the regions of the Zone, have decided on the following joint actions according to their national legislation:

1. Encourage technical cooperation for human and institutional capacity building;

2. Promote the exchange of experiences and best practices related to the reduction of the demand of illicit drugs with the objective of reducing the use and abuse of illicit drugs in the States of the Zone and generating greater resources for the treatment and social reintegration of drug dependents, and to foster cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in combating traffic in human beings, drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, including piracy, as well as for the establishment of early warning information on planned trafficking activities;

3. Emphasize that national policies could be complemented by regional, sub-regional, and international agreements, including through cooperation among the Member States of the Zone, for their implementation;

4. Promote the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Prevention, Combating and Eradication of the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, and support regional efforts to curb the flow of ammunition, as well as the implementation of regional initiatives with the same goal;

5. Foster cooperation for the reinforcement of border security and control;

6. Establish an information exchange and sharing network of Zone Member national authorities and institutions, including through judicial cooperation;

7. Establish or strengthen national arms registries, control policies and systems, including legislation, safekeeping of government inventories, building capacities in customs and law enforcement agencies;

8. Establish national and regional marking and tracing mechanisms;

9. Implement surplus and obsolete arms and ammunition destruction policies;

10. Design and implement public awareness campaigns, including with the participation of civil society;

11. Promote and exchange experiences on the voluntary surrender of illicit small arms and light weapons;

12. Request the Chair of the Zone to resume consultations with the United Nations International Drug Control Program on cooperation with the Member States of the Zone for the development and implementation of an anti-drug initiative within the Zone;

13. Establish an Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on combating illicit activities and transnational organized crime to further explore priorities, opportunities and mechanisms for cooperation among the Member States of the Zone and with relevant international institutions and organizations.

III. Peace, Stability and Security, including Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding within the Zone

In order to improve the capacity of Zone Members to engage in peacebuilding and peace support operations, further agree to take the following actions, taking into account the primary responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security:

1. Establish modalities for more effective cooperation, coordination and harmonization with regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular with the OAS, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), especially in the fields of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and take appropriate steps to take advantage of the provisions of the Security Council resolution 1631, regarding cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional as well as sub-regional organizations in maintaining International Peace and Security in conformity with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter;

2. Increase cooperation among the Member States of the Zone as well as with the international community on issues such as capacity building, logistics and information exchange;

3. Participate in the United Nations Registry of Conventional Arms;

4. Further increase the use of the existing Training Schools and the International and Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, among others;

5. Promote the role of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and operations in accordance with chapter 8 of the United Nations Charter;

6. Undertake practical measures to address existing gaps between the United Nations mandates and the situations in the area. These measures could include:

- periodic updates of the Blue Book;
- establishment of permanent mechanisms for information gathering and sharing in the field;
- periodic update of the mandates as per the information obtained by these mechanisms;
- revision of the participation of the medical element in the missions;
- increment of the information on the context of the conflict, needed resources for the operation, and lessons learnt;
- inclusion of local legal and cultural frameworks to the mandates;
- joint training for the different participating agencies;

7. Explore the possibility of organizing joint exercises at the Zone level;

8. Promote, improve upon and deepen the capacity of Member States of the Zone to provide continuous support for, and participation in United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities;

9. Develop a list of Zone Member national institutions and contact points as a data base for information exchange and for facilitating the exchange of best practices;

10. Establish an Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations to further explore priorities, opportunities and mechanisms for cooperation among the Member States of the Zone.

IV. Scientific Research, Environment and Marine Issues

In this field, also agree to encourage Member States of the Zone to:

1. Engage in joint technical and scientific projects involving the protection and responsible management of their marine resources;

2. Strengthen human and institutional capacity-building, including through the promotion of effective and responsible Flag States practices and participation in Regional Fishing Management Organizations (RFMO) to combat and control Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;

3. Promote the human rights of seafarers and request Member States of the Zone to consider setting up mechanisms to protect their rights;

4. Promote coordination of the international positioning on Genetic Marine Resources and IUU Fishing to ensure that the common interests of the Member States of the Zone are adequately treated in the competent international and regional fora;

5. Promote continued dialogue on the issue of intellectual property rights, as they relate to genetic marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, so as to achieve a common understanding on the applicable regime;

6. Generate a research cooperation project among Zone Members on marine biodiversity and ecological issues;

7. Promote joint projects to explore existing institutional capacities to combat illegal spillages and dumping of toxic waste;

8. Share experiences on efficient national surveillance and enforcement systems;

9. Promote and maintain effective Flag State controls, including through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), prevent and combat the issuance of flags of convenience among Zone Members;

10. Develop a list of Zone Member national authorities and institutions as a data base for information exchange and to promote South-South scientific and technical cooperation;

11. Establish an Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Scientific Research, Environment and Marine Issues to further explore priorities, opportunities and mechanisms for cooperation among the Member States of the Zone.

V. Cross-cutting Issues and Means of Implementation

In order to promote the Zone as an effective mechanism for South-South Cooperation and implement the adopted Plan of Action, request the Chair to:

1. Promote the mainstreaming of the principles, recommendations and decisions of the Zone in all international and regional fora;

2. Ensure that the Luanda Declaration and Plan of Action are presented to all relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, particularly the United Nations General Assembly;

3. Carry out a review of national and multilateral financial mechanisms which can be used to finance projects in the Zone, consistent with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

4. Mandate the Permanent Committee to provide the framework and the format for the national needs assessment and to collect the results for the creation of a Zone capacity-building framework to guide the capacity needs of its Member States;

5. Maintain a documentation and database facility for all Zone countries to access in pursuance of the objectives of the Luanda Declaration and Plan of Action.

VI. Implementation and Follow-up Mechanism

In order to ensure that the coordination of the Zone's initiatives are strengthened, further agree to:

1. Request the Chair, in consultation with Member States of the Zone, to make recommendations on mechanisms for the sharing and dissemination of information among Member States of the Zone, including through the design, maintenance and publishing of a website;

2. Request those Member States of the Zone that have not already done so, to appoint a national focal point and to inform the Chair accordingly within 30 days of the adoption of this Plan of Action;

3. Request the Chair to give priority to conducting a meeting with either the national focal points or the Permanent Committee of the Zone within 90 days of the adoption of the Luanda Plan of Action to develop the activities, modalities, and schedules for its implementation. The operational guidelines and final schedule should also contain, if possible, a funding plan for the support of the activities that emerge;

4. Request the Chair to convene meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Groups to facilitate the exchange of information and the promotion of practical and concrete actions among the Member States of the Zone within 90 days after the national focal points or Permanent Committee meeting;

5. Request the Chair to continue to provide oversight of the implementation of the Luanda Plan of Action and its implementation schedule, as weil as to ensure that the Zone develops rules of procedure for the Permanent Committee and Ministerial Meetings.

Adopted in Luanda on 19 June 2007.

Annex II to the letter dated 24 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Luanda Final Declaration

The Ministers of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, hereinafter referred to as "the Zone", meeting in Luanda on 18 and 19 of June 2007 on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of "the Zone":

1. Recall the United Nation's General Assembly Resolution 41/11 of October 1986, in which the Atlantic Ocean, in the region situated between Africa and South America, was solemnly declared "Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic", as well as other relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions;

2. Recall the final Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Member States of the Zone held in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on 21 and 22 October, 1998;

3. Stress the role of the Zone as a forum for increased interaction among its Member States and acknowledge with appreciation the valuable contribution made by the 1st Africa-South America Summit held in Abuja on 26-30 November 2006, particularly in reference to article 7 of the Abuja Declaration on the Zone, which mandated the strengthening of regional cooperation on peace and security among organizations and mechanisms in which they are members, mentioning the Zone as an important instrument for consolidating peace and security;

4. Affirm that our endeavors are guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of International Law, including the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, bearing also in mind the responsibility of each Member State to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

5. Reaffirm the importance of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security;

6. Reaffirm further the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regards to conflict prevention and resolution;

7. Reaffirm also their commitment to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts. Welcome the significant advances and innovations that have been achieved over the past several years. Welcome in particular the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005;

8. View with concern the continuation of situations that adversely affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of some Member States of the Zone;

9. Support efforts by Member States of the Zone in promoting the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means and in finding negotiated solutions to territorial disputes affecting Member States of the Zone;

10. Call for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" with a view to finding as soon as possible a peaceful, just and durable solution to the sovereignty dispute;

11. Reiterate the commitment of the Member States of the Zone to democracy and political pluralism and to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and in this regard welcome the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission as a concrete achievement of the implementation of the 2005 World Summit decision;

12. Recall the importance of the full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, taking into account the consequences of climate change for all countries, in particular for Small Island States;

13. Recognize the importance of the International Criminal Court and encourage Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute that established the International Criminal Court;

14. Recall the previous final declarations of the Zone reaffirming that issues of peace, security and development are interdependent and inseparable, and consider that cooperation among the States of the region for peace and development is essential to promoting the objectives of the Zone;

15. Express concern that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasize that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfill the commitments and to address the special needs of Africa;

16. Agree on the need to attach priority to the fight against hunger and poverty and emphasize the need for the international community to promote innovative sources of additional funding on a sustainable basis to enable the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

17. Emphasize the need for the international community to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit and its Development Follow-up Resolution;

18. Call upon the United Nations system and the international organizations and institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to translate all commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields into concrete and specific actions in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

19. Stress the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and actions agreed upon by the international community;

20. Reiterate that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations;

21. Further reiterate that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

22. Reaffirm the commitments made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 1 August 2004 to fulfill the development dimensions of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha work programme, and call for the successful and timely completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations with the fullest realization of the development dimensions of the Doha work programme;

23. Call for the abolition of unfair trade practices and express their desire for a more just and fair global trading regime for the benefit and welfare of the peoples of the region;

24. Reaffirm the willingness to build a solid basis for increased cooperation in all areas with potential for joint action especially in the economic, investment, technical, environmental and cultural fields and in particular, in tourism and sports;

25. Express the need for exchange of information on successful national experiences, lessons learnt as well as for technology transfer in order to foster cooperation in, among others, the areas of Clean Fuels and Environmentally Friendly Energy/Biofuel, Agricultural and Livestock Production, Human Resource Development, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Biotechnology, Education, Infrastructure Development;

26. Acknowledge the potential for trade within the Zone, recognize the need to improve lines of communication and transportation, and express their intention to foster economic and commercial exchanges as well as the role of the private sector and the civil society, and agree to actively support all efforts to intensify business cooperation as well as other activities geared towards increasing trade, investment and improve capital flows among Member States of the Zone;

27. Further acknowledge the cultural linkages between Africa and South America and encourage greater exchanges among their respective civil societies including among non-governmental organizations related to youth, women and sports as well as enhancement of cultural cooperation bearing in mind the significance of the African Diaspora in South American countries;

28. Emphasize the role of regional and sub-regional integration in improving international competitiveness of national economies and contributing to their development and recognize the importance of coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations within the space of the Zone, such as MERCOSUR, the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC);

29. Welcome the establishment of the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea as a sub-regional vehicle for cooperation, promotion and maintenance of stability and security, and for the attainment of the principles and objectives of the Zone. In this regard, express their gratitude to the Government of Angola for hosting the headquarters of the Commission and facilitating the operationalization of its secretariat;

30. Express the determination of Member States of the Zone to prevent and eliminate terrorism, in accordance with the relevant international conventions and Security Council resolutions;

31. Welcome the ongoing efforts aimed at reforming the United Nations in order to render the Organization better equipped to deal with the current challenges to international peace and security. In this regard, call for an urgent reform of the Security Council – an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations – and express support for its enlargement in order to make it more broadly representative for the developing countries, efficient and transparent and, thus, to further enhance its effectiveness, its legitimacy and the implementation of its decisions;

32. Welcome the positive developments underway in the African countries, in particular in those Member States of the Zone in post-conflict situations and invite the International Community, including the United Nations, regional and sub-regional organizations and international financial institutions, to complement and strengthen the peacebuilding and development efforts being made by the governments of these countries;

33. Support the work being carried out by the Peacebuilding Commission and express satisfaction for the election of Angola, one of the Members of the Zone, as its first chairman, as well as for the selection of two African countries to be the first on its agenda and in particular Sierra Leone, a Member of the Zone;

34. Express their willingness to contribute to the enhancement of the existing mechanisms and capacities of prevention and resolution of conflicts within the Zone, as well as support peacebuilding efforts in the increasing number of countries emerging from conflict in Africa, in particular Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR), including through the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Framework for Reconstruction and Development;

35. Express support for the leadership of the African Union Peace and Security Council in its efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In this regard, commend

the progress made in the resolution of conflicts in Africa and call upon the International Community to continue to complement efforts aimed at achieving lasting and durable solutions to remaining armed conflicts;

36. Express deep concern over the negative role of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in fuelling conflicts and note with satisfaction the ongoing efforts in Africa, in particular by Member States of the Zone, for the implementation of a legal framework aimed at tackling this practice and to this effect, call upon the international community to support these efforts, including by implementing the relevant provisions of the Security Council resolution 1625(2005);

37. Stress the importance of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, to which some Member States of the Zone are major contributors, and in this regard recognize the potential for cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the Member States of the Zone to participate in peacekeeping operations;

38. Welcome a holistic conception of peacekeeping operations that takes into account security, economic development and political aspects, and take note of the role of new stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations;

39. Stress the importance of international support on issues such as capacity building, logistics, and information exchange and the use of the existing Training Schools and the International and Regional Peacekeeping Training Centres among others;

40. Agree to implement concrete measures dedicated to peace support proposed by the April 2007 Montevideo Workshop held within the framework of the "Luanda Initiative", aimed at improving cooperation among Members of the Zone on peace, stability and security, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Zone;

41. Express their support for the full implementation of the zero tolerance policy regarding cases of crimes committed by personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping missions, particularly the victimization of women and children, and welcome efforts being undertaken by Member States of the Zone to address such violations;

42. Recognize the importance of the role of regional and sub-regional peacekeeping operations, such as the current African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) operations, as a complement of the role of the United Nations in this area in accordance with Chapter 8 of the United Nations Charter and stress the need to further develop this role through the creation of a legal framework and capacity building including through cooperation among the Member States of the Zone;

43. Welcome the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1631(2005) regarding the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations, commend the African Union for the establishment of a Standby force and stress the need for the full implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome to develop and implement a 10-year Plan for capacity building with the African Union;

44. Further welcome the Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/7) of March 28 2007, entitled "The relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security";

45. Stress the need for the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Prevention, Combating and Eradication of the Illicit Trade and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, and support efforts to curb the illegal flow of arms and ammunition, particularly within the Zone;

46. Emphasize the importance of cooperation in promoting and strengthening regional, sub-regional and national initiatives to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and in this regard welcome efforts by Member States of the Zone at implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects;

47. Urge States that have not done so to sign, ratify and implement the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer

of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction" and to cooperate in the field of demining;

48. Recall the 1994 Declaration of the Zone on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic adopted by the Third Ministerial meeting and accordingly undertake all efforts to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories and jurisdictional waters, the testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, receipt, storage, installation, deployment and possession of any nuclear weapon, as well as to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, any of these activities in the South Atlantic;

49. Reiterate their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their complete elimination and in this regard call on the international community to adhere to the status of the Zone;

50. Note with satisfaction the full entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in South America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and reiterate the importance of the early entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);

51. Reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Member States of the Zone to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination in conformity with articles I, II, III of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty;

52. Express their concern regarding the illicit traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances as well as transnational organized crime, including piracy and agree that high priority must be given to combating these problems as they represent a threat to the peace, security as well as the development of Member States and to the well being of their peoples;

53. Recognize that transnational organized crime, human trafficking, particularly women and children, money laundering, piracy, drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are interrelated, and emphasize the need for comprehensive and integrated strategies within the Zone to effectively combat these scourges, and in this regard further emphasize that the implementation of

national policies and strategies must be complemented by regional and international agreements, including among the Member States of the Zone;

54. Recall the 1996 Decision of the Zone on Drug Trafficking adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and stress the need for cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries in combating illicit arms and drugs, as well as in reinforcing border security and control;

55. Urge States that have not done so to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols;

56. Recall the conclusions of the Third Preparatory Workshop on the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic held in Buenos Aires in 2007, devoted to the issues of "sustainable use of genetic marine resources beyond areas of national jurisdiction and measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as their support to the conservation of marine mammals and their wish to cooperate on the non-lethal use of cetaceans;

57. Acknowledge that the sustainable and equitable use of Genetic Marine Resources presents an opportunity for cooperation among the Member States of the Zone and recall the need for access to technology and enhanced international cooperation to achieve the sustainable and equitable use of those resources;

58. Emphasize that any activity related to the biological diversity of the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, on the basis of the relevant principles and provisions governing the area and marine scientific research, as well as the need to coordinate actions aiming at securing the continuation of the efforts at the United Nations to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, so as to define a regime for the benefit of all States, in particular developing countries;

59. Stress that any discussion on an international regime on genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction should be held in accordance with the provisions and principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

60. Recognize the need for continued dialogue on the issue of intellectual property rights as they relate to genetic marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction so as to achieve a common understanding on the applicable regime;

61. Recall the conclusions of the expert meetings on the law of the sea in the Member States of the Zone, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo and Montevideo, Republic of Uruguay, on 12-15 June 1990 and 3-6 April 1991 respectively, devoted to the development and implementation of the legal regime established by the UNCLOS;

62. Encourage full participation in the activities of the International Seabed Authority;

63. Further recall the 1996 Decision of the Zone on IUU fishing practices adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and express great concern over the continuation of such practices in the territorial waters of Member States of the Zone, and note that institutional capacities to combat IUU fishing should be strengthened and applied in the maritime areas of the Members of the Zone, including combating of illegal spillages and dumping of toxic waste;

64. Recall the role ship crews play in protecting the Maritime Community in observing and reporting suspicious activities onboard their vessels and surrounding areas and welcome the adoption and continuing review, by the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization, of guidelines on fair treatment of seafarers and encourage all States, including States in the Zone, to put in place mechanisms protecting the human rights of seafarers;

65. Stress that one of the principal means to combat IUU fishing is responsible Flag and Port State measures consistent with international law as well as effective Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs);

66. Emphasize the need to strengthen capacity building, including through cooperation, assistance and research for the effective prevention of IUU fishing;

67. Call upon Member States of the Zone to consider the possibility of becoming parties to the agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, relating to the

Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks adopted in New York on 4 August 1995;

68. Stress the need for all Member States of the Zone to maintain effective Flag State controls, including through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and to prevent and combat the issuance of flags of convenience;

69. Express serious concern with subsidies to the fishing industry, particularly by developed countries, as they contribute to IUU fishing, fishing overcapacity, and overfishing in the coastal waters of Member States of the Zone;

70. Call on Member States of the Zone to develop programs to help them benefit from increasing revenues from their fisheries resources in order to combat the problem of IUU fishing in coastal waters, in particular African coastal waters;

71. Reaffirm the importance of implementing the 1993 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas" as well as other FAO Plans of Action and call upon those Member States of the Zone who have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the aforementioned FAO Agreement;

72. Recall the 1994 Declaration of the Zone on the Marine Environment adopted by the Third Ministerial Meeting and the 1996 Decision on the same issue adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and underscore that pollution and toxic residues are a problem that should be dealt with, including through cooperation among the Member States of the Zone;

73. Emphasize the need to revitalize the Zone and in this regard, recall the 1994 Decision of the Zone on the *Inter-sessional follow-up mechanism* adopted by the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Zone; acknowledge the utility of an open-ended Core Group of Members as established by the "Luanda Initiative"; further recall Annex 4 of the 1994 Zone Declaration on Business Cooperation, in particular the establishment of a *Working Party* and *Ad Hoc Working Groups of experts* drawn from Member States of the Zone and covering key areas of interest as provided for by the Final Declaration of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Zone;

74. Agree to hold at least two annual inter-sessional meetings of the Permanent Committee to assess the implementation of its decisions;

75. Further agree to hold its Ministerial Meeting on a biennial basis;

76. Congratulate the Argentine Republic for its valuable work as coordinator of the Zone from 1998 to 2007;

77. Commend the Government of the Republic of Angola for its significant contribution to the revitalization of the Zone, particularly, by generating the "Luanda Initiative" as a roadmap for the preparatory process of the VIth Ministerial Meeting, comprising workshops on issues of common interest held in New York in March 2007, in Montevideo in April 2007 and in Buenos Aires in May 2007;

78. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Angola for their warm hospitality and generosity and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of this Meeting;

79. Welcome with appreciation the offer by the Government of Uruguay to host the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Zone in 2009;

80. Agree to adopt the annexed Plan of Action and request the current Chair to create the necessary conditions, including institutional ones, for its implementation.

Issued in Luanda on 19 June 2007

United Nations A/61/1020–S/2007/474

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Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 6 August 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 July 2007 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, which was circulated as a document of the United Nations, under the symbol A/61/1011-S/2007/456. Although its content does not come as a surprise, its inexcusable assertions compel my Government to respond as a matter of principle.

The Republic of Cyprus, a sovereign, democratic and responsible State, Member of the United Nations is, to say the least, entitled to a minimum of respect and consideration by its powerful neighbour, which claims, incidentally, to be among the guarantors of Cyprus' independence and territorial integrity. Instead, Turkey has used military force against my country, invaded and still occupies more that 37 per cent of its territory and now proceeds with an unprecedented combination of new faits accomplis and threats of further use of force.

It seems that the mere existence of the Republic of Cyprus is considered by Turkey as an obstacle to the latter's pursuit of its geostrategic interests, as Turkey itself peculiarly defines them, and an obstruction to the variable geometry of what it conceives as its "rights" in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Republic of Cyprus, its convictions fortified by the certainty of upholding and defending international legality and the fundamental principles of international relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, stands solid and firm on its positions of principle and will not be intimidated by Turkey's long-standing gunboat policy, which belongs to another era.

As regards the subject matter of the said letter, my Government has made its position in the letter dated 31 January 2007 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus, which was issued under the symbol A/61/726-S/2007/52. In addition, a letter addressed to you on 25 May 2007 (A/61/931-S/2007/317) is one of many addressed to the United Nations regarding Turkish violations of Cyprus'

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maritime space with the purpose of illegally exploring my country's sovereign natural resources.

The Government of Cyprus has no doubts about its sovereignty over the totality of its territory, its territorial sea and its airspace and/or about its sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone and its continental shelf. Within the framework of exercising such sovereign rights and in compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as provided in articles 74, 75, 83 and 84 therein, Cyprus is proceeding to the delimitation of those areas with neighbouring countries, where such delimitation is needed under the Convention and is appropriate. In accordance with relevant international law, Turkey has no legal interest in cases of delimitation of areas that are not opposite or adjacent to its coasts and its claim that it has "legitimate" rights in Cypriot waters is incongruous and provocative.

Furthermore, Cyprus' sovereign right to explore and exploit its natural resources located in its exclusive economic zone and/or its continental shelf cannot be questioned under the Convention or general international law. It is indeed in exercising a sovereign right in full conformity with international law that Cyprus is proceeding with international tenders for granting authorizations for the prospecting, exploration and production of hydrocarbons in its exclusive economic zone.

By contrast, Turkey, one of the few States not to have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, refuses to comply with its letter and spirit, though most of its provisions codify customary international law, digressing instead into dubious and unsubstantiated theories that are out of touch with the contemporary world and the development of the law of the sea.

It is ironic for Turkey to maintain that the Government of Cyprus generates tension in the Eastern Mediterranean when Turkey's own actions have repeatedly proven to be the only source of tension and instability in that region. The statement in the above letter that "Turkey is determined to protect its rights and interests in the Eastern Mediterranean", is a barely concealed threat to use force again and is indicative of how much at variance Turkey is with legality and legitimacy in the external behaviour of States.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas **Hadjichrysanthou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 23 to 31 July 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression from 23 to 31 July 2007

Air violations

On 23 July 2007:

- Between 0900 and 1325 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Naqurah;
- Between 0909 and 1650 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Sidon, circled between Riyaq and Baalbek, then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1310 and 1945 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Rumaysh.

On 24 July 2007:

- Between 0930 and 1700 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, proceeding as far as the Bekaa; it circled between Riyaq and Baalbek, then left over Naqurah;
- Between 1125 and 1530 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Naqurah, circled over the regions of the South, then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b;
- At 2200 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, circled over the regions of the South, then left at 0105 hours on 25 July 2007 over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 25 July 2007:

- Between 0830 and 1145 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 0924 and 1230 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, circled between Na'imah and Beirut, then left over the sea off Naqurah;
- Between 1135 and 1450 hours and Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Rumaysh;
- Between 1315 and 1500 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft intermittently overflew areas of Mansuri and Naqurah;

- Between 1424 and 1800 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Naqurah.

On 26 July 2007 between 0900 and 1035 hours Israeli enemy warplanes flew intermittently at high altitude over the Bint Jubayl, Tibnin and Naqurah areas.

On 27 July 2007:

- Between 0900 and 1255 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Naqurah;

- Between 0920 and 1045 hours two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a farms area, flying north as far as Tripoli, circled over the regions of the South, Hirmil and Tripoli, then left over the Shab'a farms;

- Between 1240 and 1605 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South and left over Naqurah.

On 29 July 2007 between 1835 and 1930 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled between Beirut and Sidon, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

On 30 July 2007:

- Between 0915 and 1000 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Yarun, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Aytarun;

- Between 1030 and 1215 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh heading north, circled over the regions of the South then left over Rumaysh;

- Between 1242 and 1450 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh flying north, circled over the regions of the South and then left over Kafr Kila;

- Between 1300 and 1603 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South and then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b;

- Between 1705 and 2010 hours an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South and then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 31 July 2007:

- Between 1435 and 2224 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled over the regions of the South and then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b;

- At 2355 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh, heading north as far as Beirut, circled over Beirut and Damur and then left at 0142 hours on 1 August 2007 over Naqurah.

Sea violations

On 25 July 2007 at 0330 hours the Israeli enemy fired a flare in the direction of a Lebanese fishing vessel which was 200 metres north of the line of buoys.

On 27 July 2007 at 0300 hours because a fishing boat was in Lebanese waters at a distance of 50 metres north of the line of buoys the Israeli navy fired two flares into the air warning the said vessel to keep its distance.

Field aggressions

On 24 July 2007 between 1530 and 1600 hours the Israeli enemy fired several bursts of light machine gun fire from their outpost on Radar hill (the occupied Shab'a farms) towards the area surrounding the said position.

On 27 July 2007 between 1640 and 1700 hours the Israeli enemy intermittently fired several bursts of medium machine gun fire from their outpost at Sammaqah (the occupied Shab'a farms) towards the area surrounding the said position.

Israeli activities

On 25 July 2007 between 0915 and 1100 hours 13 members of the enemy Israeli army engaged in training in rigging up explosive charges and setting booby traps in the occupied Shab'a farms between the Ruwaysat al-Alam and Radar hill outposts (opposite Kafr Shuba and Shab'a); six explosions were heard and shelling by tanks took place as part of manoeuvres carried out by the Israeli enemy in the area.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations during the month of July 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-45403 (E) 090807 090807

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations during July 2007

Air violations				Sea violations	Land violations				Total violations	Total violations in previous month
					Military acts of aggression	Field violations	Encroachments	Total		
Military jet	Reconnaissance	Helicopter	Total	Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and fire-bombs over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important centres, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, shooting of flares, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
28	49	—	77	3	—	9	—	9	89	67

United Nations A/61/1023

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 113
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 1 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the outcome document "Reaffirming Our Unity in Diversity" of the Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment held in Managua, Nicaragua on 25 and 26 June 2006, should be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 113 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

07-45421 (E) 130807 130807

Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment: "Reaffirming Our Unity in Diversity"

Managua, Nicaragua, 25-26 June 2007

1. We, the representatives of thirty-one Latin American and Caribbean States Members of the United Nations, gathered at Managua, Nicaragua, on 25 and 26 June 2007, participants in the Regional High-level Consultation on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, reaffirm our commitment to the need to improve the levels of efficiency and effectiveness of our Organization.

2. We welcome the initiative of the Government of Nicaragua to organize this regional consultation with the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has served as a collective forum for consideration of the important issue of the coherence of the system within the context of development. This meeting has also helped to increase the level of information about the consultation process under way on the coherence of the United Nations system.

3. We reaffirm that the fundamental characteristics of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that operational activities are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development.

4. The consideration of the High-level Panel's recommendations must emphasize that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process.

5. We reaffirm that General Assembly resolution 59/250 provides the intergovernmentally agreed framework for policies directed towards operational activities for development of the United Nations and we reiterate that economic and social development must remain at the centre of United Nations deliberations and that the achievement of the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, must continue to be the overall framework for the activities of the Organization.

6. We are aware that globalization has created opportunities and challenges while also deepening and widening inequalities and the gap between rich and poor countries. We therefore consider the eradication of economic and social inequalities to be one of the fundamental objectives for the world today. We also emphasize the need to strengthen the global partnership for development.

7. We reaffirm that it is a priority to strengthen the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and in standard setting within international trade and financial institutions, moving towards a more inclusive system which duly takes into account the specific needs of developing countries.

8. We underline the necessity for the intergovernmental consultations on the recommendations of the High-level Panel to be carried out through an open, transparent and inclusive process whereby artificial time limits are avoided and such recommendations are submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

9. We reaffirm the need to step up the political impetus in the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. In this context, we support the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which will be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2008.

10. We call for the development assistance programmes of the United Nations system to focus on supporting national and regional efforts, inter alia, to eradicate hunger, poverty and illiteracy, and also to promote health, equitable economic growth and sustainable development.

11. In the formulation of their national policies, our countries will continue to promote international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity.

12. We underline the need to mobilize additional resources, including from organizations of the United Nations system and donors, to enhance South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation.

13. We recognize the important contribution of women to development. Therefore, we support efforts to strengthen the work of the United Nations relating to the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, inter alia, its research, training and capacity-building activities concerned with gender issues.

14. Our countries will continue to participate actively and constructively in the consultation process under way on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence.

15. We hope that the reform of the Organization, including the analysis of the coherence of the system, will strengthen the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in coordinating United Nations social and economic activities.

16. The participants congratulate the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua on the excellent working conditions for this consultation and reiterate their appreciation to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its support, which has enabled our deliberations to be a success.

Managua, 26 June 2007.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 21
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the communication to you dated 10 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina, requesting circulation of an Organization of American States Declaration on the Question of the Falkland Islands (A/61/986).

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a written response to the declaration by the United Kingdom's Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**

07-45886 (E) 170807

Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Declaration on the Question of the Falkland Islands (the correct name for the Islands in the English language) adopted by this plenary session.

The United Kingdom's position was last set out in detail by the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, in a written right of reply dated 4 October 2006 (A/61/535) to the statement by President Nestor Carlos Kirchner of the Argentine Republic in the United Nations General Assembly on 20 September 2006. That remains the United Kingdom's position.

The United Kingdom has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their surrounding maritime areas.

I am confident that the adoption of this Declaration will not inhibit fruitful cooperation on remaining issues on the agenda of the Thirty-Seventh Regular Session of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

I would be grateful if your Excellency could arrange to circulate this letter as an information document and include it in the record of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Alan **Charlton**
Permanent Observer of the United Kingdom
to the Organization of American States

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 9 August 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to the letter dated 13 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to you (A/61/956-S/2007/362), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 6 June to 31 July 2007.

On 6 June 2007, four F-16 and three CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 7 June 2007, four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 8 June 2007, four F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 9 and 10 June 2007, two Cougar, two C-130, two C-160 and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type, violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 12 June 2007, five CN-235 and five Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations 10 times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus nine times.

On 13 June 2007, two CN-235, two B-200, two F-16, two F-4 and nine Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations 13 times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus 12 times.

07-45529 (E) 140807

On 14 June 2007, four CN-235, three Cougar and four F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations eight times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 19 June 2007, one Cougar, one CN-235 and four F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 20 June 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 21 June 2007, four F-16, three CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 23 June 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 26 June 2007, four F-16, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 27 June 2007, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 28 June 2007, two F-16, two F-4, two CN-235 and four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 30 June 2007, four C-130 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 2 July 2007, two Cougar and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 3 July 2007, two F-16, two F-4 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice.

On 4 July 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 5 July 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 9 July 2007, two F-16 two F-4, one Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 10 July 2007, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 11 July 2007, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 13 July 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 16 July 2007, one CN-235, two Cougar and two MI-8 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 17 July 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 18 July 2007, two F-16, two F-4, three CN-235 and two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 19 July 2007, 17 NF-5, one C-130, one C-160, one B-200 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 20 and 21 July 2007, 17 NF-5, two Cougar, two Cessna and one Dornier Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 23 July 2007, four F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 24 July 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 25 July 2007, two B-200 and two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 29 July 2007, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 30 July 2007, two F-16, two F-4, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 31 July 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to strongly protest the aforementioned violations and hereby appeal for their immediate cessation. Turkey's policy of non-observance of established rules and regulations governing international aviation gravely jeopardizes flight safety in the Eastern Mediterranean.

These provocative and irresponsible actions by Turkey, in conjunction with the recently pursued Turkish policy of regional hegemony, which covets the maritime resources of the Republic of Cyprus, present a serious destabilizing factor and generate tension in the region. Such policies and actions provide ample demonstration of the irresponsible behaviour of a country that otherwise aspires to assume a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas **Hadjichrysanthou**
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 8 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 August 2007, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-45663 (E) 140807

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative addressed to you dated 22 June 2007 and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/61/964-S/2007/377).

In the face of the misrepresentations and distortions contained in the aforementioned letter of the Greek Cypriot representative, I deem it necessary to draw your kind attention to the following.

First and foremost, I wish to point out that the cleaning up of old, vacant and partly derelict buildings in Karpas region has been carried out in accordance with the legal duty and responsibility of the Ministry of Interior in creating a safer, more hygienic and healthier environment for all residents living in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In this respect, all buildings that constitute threat to the public safety are identified and cleaning-up is carried out. Our relevant authorities have identified 280 derelict buildings as well as ruins in this region, some of which were merely single-roomed stables and haylofts. All work that has been done so far has been implemented for the sole purpose of public safety and the owners of such properties included both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It should also be noted that this work is carried out not only in Karpas region but throughout the whole of Northern Cyprus where it is required.

Our study has revealed that some of the owners of such properties in the said region have permanently left the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with their families. It should be noted that all foreigners, including Greek Cypriots residing in the North, who take permanent residence elsewhere have the option of transferring their properties to people of their choosing within one year of their departure. Should the owner of the property decide not to exercise this right, such property, by law, is deemed abandoned and becomes public property. The owners of such property are still eligible to apply to the Immovable Property Commission for an assessment of their abandoned properties in the North and to claim redress through the options available before the Commission, including restitution, exchange and or compensation.

The relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have worked diligently to contact the immediate families of the deceased owners of properties that were in an imminent state of collapse. Those buildings creating a severe threat to public safety were demolished after due notice was given to the immediate family or any other relative residing in the North.

I also wish to add that some of the heirs who claim to have inherited these properties have been unable to produce any documentation of proof to this date. The heirs, within a year of the death of their relatives residing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, should start the necessary procedures for acquiring property rights for the estates. Otherwise, their properties will be declared as abandoned and considered as public property. Similarly, after the expiration of the one-year period, the heirs can file an application to the Immovable Property Commission where they will be provided with an appropriate redress in accordance with the law.

It is unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot administration is misrepresenting and exploiting, for political propaganda purposes, a routine clean-up process required by law and carried out for the safety of all residents of the Karpas area, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike. As is the case elsewhere, it is the responsibility of the relevant authorities of our state to ensure that people residing in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus live in a safe and healthy environment. At the same time, property owners who feel particularly aggrieved by the action of the relevant authorities have a number of legal remedies available in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus whereby they can claim damages for the action taken by the authorities.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

07-45663

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Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 8 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 August 2007 addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-45669 (E) 140807

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 2 February 2007 (A/61/727-S/2007/54, annex), I am writing to bring to your kind attention once again the continuing provocative policies of the Greek Cypriot administration, which undermine stability in the island, as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot administration to delimit maritime jurisdiction areas and explore oil and natural gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean are being carried out at the expense of legitimate rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people. The Greek Cypriot administration does not represent the entire island. It neither has the legal right nor the legitimacy to claim to represent or act on behalf of Turkish Cypriots who have their own elected representatives and live under their own administration.

It is most unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot administration pursues such policies in complete disregard of the facts that the Turkish Cypriot people are the equal partners under the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and, as such, have an equal right and say on the natural resources on the land and sea areas of the island of Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot side attempts to create a fait accompli by finalizing, in mid-August, the tender process it initiated for the 13 oil exploration fields unilaterally defined in the area. On various occasions, it was made abundantly clear by the Turkish Cypriot side that such unilateral acts are totally unacceptable. We witness, with regret, that the Greek Cypriot side continues to take such steps which undermine the prospect for a settlement in the island.

The expectation of the Turkish Cypriot side, as well as the international community, from the Greek Cypriot leadership is not to take steps generating further tension in the region while efforts are under way to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. Such a settlement, among other things, will enable Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots to jointly benefit from the island's resources.

As clearly mentioned in our above-mentioned letter dated 2 February 2007, any agreement signed and step taken on the matter by the Greek Cypriot administration under its purported capacity as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" is null and void and is not in any way binding on the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under your good offices mission and on the basis of the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus